

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (amended): A method of charging for a plurality of voice calls, the voice call is represented by a voice signal transmitted by a call source device, comprising the steps of: connecting a gateway to the call source device, the gateway capable to receive the transmitted voice signal from the call source device; providing a packetized voice network of a plurality of communicatively interconnected nodes, each node capable of communicating to and from each other node of the plurality; connecting the gateway to the packetized voice network, via an ingress node that is at least one of the plurality; converting the voice signal at the gateway to a packetized voice signal of packetized digital data representative of the voice signal, if the voice signal at the gateway is not received as a packetized digital data representative of the voice signal, the packetized digital data comprising a number of individual digitized information units; delivering the packetized voice signal by the gateway to the ingress node; communicating, via the packetized voice network, the packetized voice signal by the ingress node to at least one other node of the plurality; determining one or more parameters associated with a , via the packetized voice network, the number of information units used to transmit the plurality of voice calls over the packetized voice network; and preparing a bill for the voice call based on the number plurality of voice calls as a

function of the one or more parameters.

Claim 2 (amended): The method of as recited in claim 1 wherein at least one of the one or more parameters, is used to prepare the bill according to a total number of information units transmitted, wherein the packetized voice network communicates a plurality of distinct different voice calls initiated external to the packetized voice network, at least certain of the plurality can, but need not necessarily, be transmitted by a different call source device during a predetermined period.

Claim 3 (amended): The method of as recited in claim 4, wherein the step of determining is performed, respectively, for each respective call source device for a predetermined period, further comprising the step of: wherein at least one of the one or more parameters is used to prepare the bill according to

aggregating the number for each respective call source device over an average number of information units transmitted during a the predetermined period to obtain a respective result for each respective call source device for the predetermined period;
wherein the step of preparing the bill is performed, respectively, for each respective call source device and employs the respective result.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (amended): The method of as recited in claim 1, wherein the packetized voice network communicates the packetized voice signal among respective ones of the plurality of

nodes via the information units are transmitted over a voice over internet protocol (VOIP) network.

Claim 6 (amended): The method of as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of determining the number employs a network management protocol aspect determines the one or more parameters associated with the number of information units transmitted.

Claim 7 (amended): The method of as recited in claim 1, wherein the voice calls include modem calls.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (amended): The method of as recited in claim 8 1, wherein the gateway at least one of the ingress points is communicatively coupled to a public switched telephone network to receive the transmitted voice signal.

Claim 10 (amended): The method of as recited in claim 8 1, wherein the gateway at least one of the ingress points is communicatively coupled to another a packetized data network that is not the packetized voice network.

Claim 11 (amended): The method of as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more parameters are used to prepare step of preparing the bill employs a component selected from the group consisting of: the number, an average of the number during a time period of information units transmitted, and a peak number of information units transmitted the number over time.

Claim 12 (amended): A computer program product encoded in at least one computer readable medium to implement a billing program for a packetized network carrying voice traffic, the voice traffic comprised of digital data units corresponding to voice calls initiated external to the packetized network and input to the packetized network via a gateway to the packetized network, the packetized network comprises a plurality of intercommunicative nodes, comprising:

a first instruction sequence executable to retrieve from at least one node of the packetized network the storage location a measure of network utilization associated with a respective one of the plurality of voice calls received at the gateway into the packetized network, the measure relating to being a function of a number of the digital data units comprising the respective one of information units transmitted over the network to carry the voice calls; and

a second instruction sequence executable to determine a charge in respect of the number for plurality of voice calls according to the measure of the network utilization.

Claim 13 (amended): The computer program product of as recited in claim 12, wherein the network utilization measure is a function of an average number of the information units transmitted number over a period of time.

Claim 14 (amended): The computer program product of as recited in claim 12, wherein the network utilization measure is a function of a peak number of the information units transmitted number during a period of time.

Claims 15-28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (new): A method of charging for a voice call, the voice call is initiated by a device communicatively connected to a call node of a packetized voice network comprised of a plurality of intercommunicating nodes, the call node is capable of communicating a packetized voice signal of packetized digital data representative of the voice call among the plurality of nodes, comprising the steps of:

connecting a gateway to the packetized voice network;

determining, via the packetized voice network, a number of individual digitized information units of the packetized voice signal;

connecting the gateway to a call recipient device, the gateway capable to deliver the voice call to the call recipient device;

converting the packetized voice signal to a voice signal of format understandable by the call recipient device, at the gateway prior to delivery of the voice call to the call recipient device, if required for delivery of the voice signal to the call recipient device;

and

preparing a bill for the voice call based on the number.

Claim 30 (new): A method according to claims 1 or 15, in which:

the packetized voice network is the same for voice calls initiated external to the packetized voice network and voice calls initiated in communication to a node of the packetized voice network.